

IDAHO WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

Youth Program Design Committee

May 7, 2008, Meeting Minutes

Twin Falls, Idaho

Committee Chair Jim Schmidt welcomed the group and reviewed the agenda. He asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the Feb. 29 meeting. Kara Besst moved the minutes be accepted as written, seconded by Jim Schmidt and approved unanimously.

An overview of the meeting follows:

With reduced funding the Youth Program Design Committee has an opportunity to review program design and make recommendations to the Workforce Development Council on who is served through the WIA youth program in the coming years by establishing priorities for various groups of at-risk youth.

Committee members concentrated on addressing three questions:

- 1) Who should we serve?
- 2) What services will be offered? and
- 3) How will services be provided?

The goal of the youth program is to avoid duplication and be as efficient as possible to assure most of the resources are directed to youth participants rather than administrative costs.

Two of the major focuses include:

- 1) Identifying current gaps in services to the neediest youth so the limited WIA resources can be directed to have a positive impact and
- 2) Assuring partnerships with other service providers so resources can be leveraged effectively.

The committee has been working with other partners including Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, Job Corps, Department of Health & Welfare—Forster Care program, Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired, Division of Professional-Technical Education, Department of Juvenile Justice, Department of Correction, Idaho Youth Ranch, Adult Basic Education and Health and Welfare TANF representatives.

From discussions with our partners, the committee wants to target specific groups such as:

- Youth who are involved with the juvenile justice system;
- Youth exiting foster care;
- Pregnant and parenting teens;
- Youth with disabilities;
- Out-of-school youth and

- In-school youth who are in alternative high schools or enrolled in programs leveraging Carl Perkins and/or local technical education funds.

Before making a final determination, the committee asked to review data on youth involved in the juvenile justice system and those exiting foster care. Staff agreed to bring this data to the next meeting.

The committee also discussed the discretionary barrier groups and adopted the following as a group requiring additional assistance.

- Those with attachment to or aging out of foster care
- Youth with disabilities
- Out-of-school youth
- Is an individual who does not speak English as their primary language and who has a limited ability to read, speak, write or understand English

Next steps will be to identify how to obtain the services for these prioritized groups. The next meeting of the Youth Program Design Committee will be in June. The committee will bring recommendations to the September meeting of the Workforce Development Council. Upon adoption of the recommendations, the WIA youth program design can be implemented in January 2009.

Attendance:

Committee Members:

Jim Schmidt, Chair
Kara Besst

Visitors:

Susan Baca, Magic Valley Youth & Adult Services

Idaho Department of Labor staff:

Cheryl Brush
Leandra Burns
Dwight Johnson
Alice Taylor
Brent Tolman, Burley
Kay Vaughan